

Texas Equine Incentive Program (TEIP) Overview

Purpose: To provide incentives for horse owners to breed and compete with their Appaloosa, Paint or Quarter horses in Texas.

Which breeders are covered?

Breeders of Appaloosa, Paint and Quarter horses in Texas are covered. Owners of stallions who breed six or more mares in Texas in the 12 months preceding the annual breeding report are automatically covered by the program. Opt-out opportunities are available. Owners of stallions who have bred fewer than six mares may opt in to the program by submitting the TEIP form, a duplicate breeding report and the applicable fees.

What fees are associated with participation and when are they due?

When the annual breeding report is sent to the breed association, the owner of the stallion must also submit a duplicate breeding report to TDA, along with a TEIP form and a fee of \$30 for each mare bred in Texas. Reports must be filed with TDA by November 30 each year. Applications submitted after November 30 of each year will be assessed an additional fee of \$30 per mare bred. If an owner of a stallion fails to file breeding reports and pay program fees on or before December 31 of the applicable calendar year, no foal sired by that stallion during that breeding year will be eligible to participate in the program.

Is participation mandatory?

No. The owner of a stallion that has bred six or more mares in the 12 months preceding the breeding report may elect not to participate in the program by submitting a written notice to TDA 30 days before the breeding report is due. If you are an owner of a stallion that has bred six or more mares and you choose not to participate in the program, please complete and return the Opt Out Form **before Oct. 31**. This form will serve as written notice to the agency that you do not wish to participate in the program, allowing you to opt out for one year. A new form must be filled out each year you choose to opt out.

The owner of a stallion who has bred less than six mares may opt in to the program by submitting a TEIP form and a duplicate breeding report to TDA, along with the required fee.

How will the fees be used?

HB 1881 gives TDA authority to use program fees to provide incentive awards to owners of eligible foals who participate in horse events in Texas. TDA will establish a point system to calculate awards arising from sanctioned breed association events in Texas.

Which foals are eligible to receive an award under TEIP?

To be eligible for an incentive award, a foal must:

- Be the offspring of a stallion and mare registered with their respective breed associations;

- Be a Texas-bred horse (Texas-bred horse is defined as a registered Appaloosa, Quarter or Paint horse that is conceived and born in Texas);
- Have a sire that stood in Texas during the entire breeding season in which the foal was conceived;
- Have had the TEIP fee paid on behalf of the foal's dam at the time the stallion's breeding report was submitted;
- Participate in Texas horse events;
- Be at least one year old to accrue points for sanctioned non-racing events; and
- Be at least two years old to accrue points from racing events.

How will awards be calculated and when will they be made?

TDA will consult with the applicable breed associations to formulate the proposed incentive award scoring criteria prior to the first year of expected payout, which may be as early as 2012. When a foal is born, proof of registration with the applicable national breed association must be sent to TDA before the foal is eligible to begin earning incentive awards. When a foal is eligible to begin earning points at the age of two, TDA, in coordination with the breed associations, will determine the number of points that each foal in the program has accumulated in Texas. The amount of incentive awards will be determined every year based on the funds available in the TEIP account. It is anticipated that foals paid into the program based on the 2009 breeding reports may receive the first incentive payouts as early as January 2012.

How can I learn more about this program?

To access a complete set of program rules and to download either a TEIP Form, or an Opt-Out Form, please go to TDA's website, www.TexasAgriculture.gov/EquineIncentive.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lyles, state marketing coordinator for livestock, at (512) 463-7560, or TexasLivestock@TexasAgriculture.gov.